

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
PLANTS			
Plants not adapted or suited	Plants are not adapted and/or suited to site conditions or client objectives.	<p>Selected plants are adapted to the soil and climatic conditions or the site is modified to make it suitable for the desired plants. Plants are sustainable, do not negatively impact other resources, and meet client objectives. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply:</p> <p>Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields at least 75% of client expectations.</p> <p>Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p> <p>Pastureland: Plants on or planned for the site have a site adaptation score greater than 3 using Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS) and are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) OR THE ALASKA VEGETATION CLASIFICATION, VIREECK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site investigation and records • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS) • Client interview • PLANTS database • VEGSPEC • Revegetation Guide for Alaska • Plant hardiness zone map • Soil pH, drainage class, sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and electrical conductivity (EC) suitability ranges. • Soil interpretations – Section IV • Field Crop Production Handbook Alaska • Soil survey manuscripts • Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) • Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) • Silvics of North America Trees • NRCS Discipline Manuals/handbooks • Planting Guide For Trees In Urban and Rural Alaska

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Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	Plants do not produce the yields, quality, and soil cover to meet client objectives.	<p>Selected plants on or planned for the site are sufficiently productive to meet or exceed client needs. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply:</p> <p>Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75% of site potential.</p> <p>Rangeland: Rangeland Health Assessment of “HEALTHY” or the plant community has a similarity index of at least 60% or an upward trend for similarity indices less than 60%.</p> <p>Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in FSG reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Forests consist of healthy stands with vigorous growth having a stand density within acceptable levels of stocking based on ALASKA STOCKING GUIDES. Plants chosen for agroforest applications are consistent with Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) listings and height performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Crop Production Handbook Alaska • Client interview • Plant tissue and harvest analysis • Crop scouting • NRCS discipline manuals/handbooks • National Range and Pasture Handbook • Ecological Site Descriptions • Rangeland Similarity Index Worksheet • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • A clip and weigh sampling procedure. • Plot sampling of understory vegetation • Soil survey reports • Soil Testing • Crop/soil yield comparison in the vicinity • Pasture Condition Scoring • Keys for disease and insect symptoms • Rangeland Health Assessment • Stocking rate of desired species • Plot sampling of understory vegetation • AK NRCS stocking guides for quality criteria determination • Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) • A guide for lichen utilization • Photopoint monitoring

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Plant Condition - Threatened or Endangered Plant Species	Plant populations and /or habitat quantity and quality have reached a level that one or more plant species are in danger of or threatened with extinction.	Threatened and endangered plant species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to avoid actions that would reduce their current population, health, or sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interviews • Inventory site • General Manual, 190, Part 410 • US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists • Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations • Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups • PLANTS Website • Identification of Aleutian shield fern
Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	The site has noxious or invasive plants present.	The site is managed to control or eradicate noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interviews • Inventory site • Consult CNIPM (Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management) • Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups • State or local noxious weed list • PLANTS Website
Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability	Plants do not have adequate nutritive value or palatability for the intended use	Forage plants are managed to produce the desired nutritive value and palatability for the intended use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRS Forage Quality Analysis (NUTBAL) • Plant tissue analysis
Plant Condition – Wildfire Hazard	The kinds and amounts of fuel loadings (plant biomass) pose risks to human safety, structures, and resources should wildfire occur.	Fuel loadings are reduced and/or isolated to meet client needs in minimizing the risk and incidence of wildfire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment protocols • Site and flammable biomass inventories • Aerial photo analysis • Fire Wise evaluation process